

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As below named inventors we hereby declare that: Our residence, post office address and citizenship is as stated below next to our names.

We believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention, entitled:

IDENTIFICATION OF OPTICAL RIBBONS

of which:

Check One



is attached hereto.



was filed on _____, (if applicable)

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims as amended by any amendment referred to above.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with *Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a)*.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under *Title 35, United States Code, 119(a)-(d)* of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Applications: None

| | | | |
|--------|---------|----------------------|--|
| N/A | N/A | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Number | Country | Day/Month/Year Filed | Priority Claimed |
| N/A | N/A | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Number | Country | Day/Month/Year Filed | Priority Claimed |

We hereby claim the benefit under *Title 35, United States Code, Section 120* of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of *Title 35, United States Code, Section 112*, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined by *Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a)* which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Application Serial No.

Filing Date

Status: Patented/Pending/Abandoned

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of *Title 18 of the United States Code* and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

As named inventors, we hereby appoint Timothy J. Aberle (Registration Number 36,383), Michael E. Carroll, Jr. (Registration Number 46,602), Michael L. Leetzow (Registration Number 35,932), Christopher C. Dremann (Registration Number 36,504), and K. McNeill Taylor, Jr. (Registration Number 30,379) our attorneys with full powers (including the powers of appointment, substitution, and revocation) to prosecute this application and any division, continuation, continuation-in-part, reexamination, or reissue thereof, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith; the mailing addresses and the telephone number of the above-mentioned attorney is:

Timothy J. Aberle
P. O. Box 489
Hickory, N. C., 28603-0489
(828) 327-5354

Signatures, Full Names, Addresses, and Citizenship of Inventors:

Craig M. Conrad
Craig M. Conrad
239 13th Ave Pl NW, Apt. 3
Hickory, NC 28601
Citizenship: USA

David W. Chiasson
David W. Chiasson
1306 21st Avenue NE
Hickory, NC 28601
Citizenship: Canada

Date: June 20, 2001

Date: June 20, 2001